

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
PRS-01 SIG-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RKATES:LAR  
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
-----150410Z 033142 /61

O 150304Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING: BORDER ATTACK  
ON ZAIRE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT (NOT VERBATIM) OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATING TO THE BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE AT THE MARCH 14 DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING: BEGIN QUOTE:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR ESTIMATES OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE? WHO'S BEHIND THE FIGHTING -- THE DIMENSIONS OF THE FIGHTING?

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A: I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO ADD TO FRIDAY. OUR REPORTS FROM SHABA REMAIN RATHER SKETCHY. WE STILL DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION OF THE MAKEUP OR THE SIZE OF THE INVADING FORCES OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THEY CLAIM TO BE KATANGAN GENDARMES. OUR LATEST INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE INVADING FORCES STILL OCCUPY THE WEST SHABA TOWNS OF KAPANGA, DILOLO, AND KISENGE. WE DON'T HAVE CONFIRMED INDICATION

THAT THE INVADERS ARE ADVANCING THROUGH THE REGION. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION IN KINSHASA AND OTHER MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS OF THE COUNTRY REMAIN CALM.

ON EVACUATION OF AMERICANS, FIFTEEN AMERICANS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM OR HAVE LEFT ON THEIR OWN ACCORD - SANDOA. THE TOWN OF SANDOA LIES MIDWAY BETWEEN DILOLO AND KAPANGA AND IT'S CLOSE TO THE ANGOLAN BORDER.

Q: COULD I STOP YOU THERE? I'M JUST TRYING TO CHECK WHETHER YOU'RE UPDATING WHAT WE KNEW. WE HAD 13 AND WE HAD 2 MISSIONARIES REMAINING IN SANDOA. ARE THOSE THE 2 THAT MADE IT 15?

A: 9 MISSIONARIES LEFT SANDOA BY ROAD FOR KOLWEZI AND KAKUMBA.

Q: BUT THEY'RE OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I SUSPECT THEY'RE STILL IN THE COUNTRY, BUT THEY HAVE LEFT THEIR NORMAL PLACE. A TOTAL OF 15 HAVE BEEN EVACUATED OR LEFT OF THEIR OWN ACCORD FROM SANDOA. THAT'S THE LATEST FIGURE I HAVE.

Q: ARE THERE ANY EVACUATIONS TODAY?

A: THE AIRLIFT WAS MARCH 12TH - SATURDAY.

Q: AND THE ONES UNDER HOUSE ARREST?  
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A: THE ONES UNDER HOUSE ARREST AGAIN, COMMUNICATED BY RADIO WITH THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN LUBUMBASHI. THEY REPORTED AGAIN THAT THEY WERE IN GOOD SHAPE. THEY COMMUNICATED MARCH 12TH AT 10:50 A.M. LOCAL TIME. NO REPORT OF COMMUNICATION SINCE THEN - ON SUNDAY.

Q: HAS THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE EITHER, MILITARY OR POLITICAL FROM THIS COUNTRY?

A: THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED US FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF MATERIEL. WE'RE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF DETAILS ON THE REQUEST.

Q: MATERIEL IS AWFULLY BROAD. CAN'T YOU BREAK THAT DOWN? MILITARY OR LETHAL.....?

A: AT THIS MOMENT I CAN'T BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU. I

CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS ON THE NATURE OF THE REQUEST.

Q: WHEN DID THEY MAKE THIS REQUEST?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE TIMING ON IT, BUT IT WAS VERY RECENTLY.

Q: AND IT'S CLEARLY RELATED TO...

A: YES.

Q: HAS THE EMBASSY BEEN ABLE TO SEND ANY MILITARY ATTACHES OR OTHER OBSERVERS TO THE SCENE OF THE FIGHTING...?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DOES THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDER THIS A SERIOUS SITUATION?

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A: WELL, WE'RE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT AN EVENT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. WE'RE KEEPING AS CLOSE AN EYE AS WE CAN ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA. END QUOTE.

VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, BORDER INCIDENTS, INVASIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RKATES:LAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3102253  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CG, US  
**To:** AF POSTS LISBON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6e19f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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